

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 16, 19, 20, 22 and 24 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 5, 16, 19, 20, 22 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii et al. (US 5,280,641). Applicants kindly request reconsideration of this rejection in view of the following comments.

Claim 1 recites the features of a gain variable signal generator having an output load part comprising a variable resistor and an output terminal; and a control means for controlling the capacitance value of said variable capacitor and the resistance value of said variable resistor by controlling said first switching unit and said second switching unit. Applicants respectfully submit that Ishii does not disclose or suggest at least this combination of features recited in claim 1.

With respect to the above-noted features, Applicants note that in the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that, in Ishii, “element 16 forms a variable resistor element that is also part of the load for the source/drain of the main amplifying transistor 14” (see Office Action at page 3). Applicants respectfully disagree with this comment made by the Examiner.

In particular, Applicants note that in column 4, lines 46-49 of Ishii, it is described that “the amplified RF signal is picked up, via an emitter-collector path of the AGC transistor 16, from the RF tuning circuit 20 serving as a load”. Thus, while this description indicates that element 16 performs a transistor operation, Applicants respectfully submit that such a description does not suggest that element 16 forms a variable resistor element as set forth in claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that while element 16 of Ishii performs a transistor operation, that Ishii does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted combination of features recited in claim 1 of a gain variable signal generator having an output load part comprising a variable resistor and an output terminal; and a control means for controlling the capacitance value of said variable capacitor and the resistance value of said variable resistor by controlling said first switching unit and said second switching unit.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Ishii, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 4, 5, 22 and 24 depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Regarding claim 16, Applicants note that this claim recites the features of a gain variable signal generator having an output load part comprising a variable resistor and an output terminal; and a control means for controlling the capacitance value of said variable capacitor and the resistance value of said variable resistor by controlling said first switching unit and said second switching unit.

For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Ishii does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features recited in claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 16 is patentable over Ishii, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 16 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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